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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DDCO

DATE: 14 June 1956

FROM : Signal Center, OC

SUBJECT: Fast Pouch

25X1A6a 1. The Signal Center feels that the reinstitution of the Fast Pouch service to [REDACTED] would effect no monetary savings in cable traffic to and from those three stations, and little, if any, savings in number of personnel required to handle such traffic. This is based on the following factors:

a. Cable transmission costs to the three stations is borne in the form of reciprocity with the carrier services involved, and there is no actual cash outlay for cables. Furthermore, the communication facilities, such as transmitters, receivers, and teletype gear are operating and available for our use, whether we use them or not.

25X1A6a b. Over one-half of the present cable traffic load to [REDACTED] and a goodly amount of the [REDACTED] cable load, 25X1A6a is Special Projects type traffic, usually of high precedence, and probably would not be sent via Fast Pouch. The CT(C) 25X1A6a personnel at [REDACTED] are on 24 hour a day duty, mainly because of this high precedence traffic, and the number of personnel could not be reduced because of coverage.

c. The Communications personnel complement in [REDACTED] has 25X1A6a been cut from four to three in the past few months, and can ill afford to be cut lower since one is a [REDACTED] operator 25X1A2g who must be there for radio coverage.

25X1A6a d. During the six months test of Fast Pouch procedure in 1955, the [REDACTED] Signal Center experienced an increase in workload; one of the reasons being the necessity to relay Fast Pouch material electrically to its substations. In the cryptographic process, this resulted in [REDACTED] CT(C) 25X1A6a personnel being required to prepare original tapes of cables (which would have been automatically reproduced from incoming Headquarters traffic if sent electrically first), plus the inherent increase in Message Center procedure which is required of overseas Signal Centers. Because of time deadlines of plane schedules, etc., it was often necessary to divert an entire shift of CT(C) personnel to logging, enveloping, receipting and mailing functions for several hours at a time, thus curtailing or delaying electrical functions during that time.

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e. Although the Headquarters Signal Center effected a saving of possibly three CT(C)'s in the initial enciphering and deciphering process in the Crypto Branches, a clerical increase was necessary in the Traffic Control Section because of the additional accounting and servicing processes required to insure delivery and receipt of Fast Pouch cables.

2. Unknown factors in the Fast Pouch procedure are how much normal pouch material is infused into Fast Pouch channels by cable originators because of the speed of the system; and how much cable traffic would normally have been an increase during any particular period. During the last test, there was no policing unit to determine whether material sent and received was actually Fast Pouch material or normal pouch material. As a result, the traffic group count figures during the test showed that although the electrical transmission group count was lowered about 15%, the increase of numbers of cables to those three stations was higher than the totals of the preceding six months, thus increasing the clerical responsibility and Message Center functions both at Headquarters and overseas. How much of this increase was a result of normal heavy business for those areas, and how much was diverted from normal pouch channels is hard to establish.

3. Too much emphasis is being placed on the Fast Pouch procedure because of the speed with which highly trained cryptographic specialists can give to routine clerical jobs at the expense of electrical communications functions for which they are basically responsible. For lack of speed in the normal pouch channels, the Fast Pouch system, as applied, solves many originators' problems at the expense of CT(C)'s. The present VIP pouch which goes two or three times a week would serve the same purpose if a registry system such as the Fast Pouch procedure could be instituted at that level. If it is determined that a subject matter deserves cable handling, then it appears that 24 hour delivery or less including originator, authenticator and releasor action, plus cryptographic processing, is necessary; not the above time plus another 24 to 48 hour delay in Fast Pouch delivery.

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CHIEF, SIGNAL CENTER

ORIG: WBF/rmy